

Acquisition of ROSENBERG LIBRARY as suggested by Mr. [REDACTED]

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The Library was not strictly a library -- it was a collection of art objects, silverware, pictures, documents, books, etc., amounting to a central collection of loot. Actually about 80% of the collection has been returned to the original owners as a result of terms of Potsdam Agreement.

Some of the books were historical of the anti-Nazi, anti-Communist, anti-Russian type; mostly in German, although some in Russian language. Commitments had been made to Russia, as a result of Potsdam Agreement, that 300,000 books would be returned. Russia entered ~~her~~ claim for that number and about 1/3 have been returned. (Presumably the anti-Communist, anti-Russian type have been destroyed.) Russia has ear-marked the balance of books and documents to be returned.

All books and documents were screened by representatives of USFET and War Department for intelligence material; much of which has been sent back here and probably now in German Document Center. Everyone agrees, G-2 and USFET, that little of any intelligence value remains in the library.

In view of Potsdam Agreement, political considerations, and fact that material has been screened and little of real value remains, the Director is of the opinion it would be a bad move politically to try to force acquisition of balance of library.

Van:

The above is the angle I took in talking to [REDACTED] — and asked him to forward the information to [REDACTED] I inferred that the above was your view after talking to various people in Europe.

"Pukie"

Van

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